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the Economic and Social Council

**Quadrennial reports, 1994–1997, submitted through the
Secretary-General pursuant to Economic and Social
Council resolution 1996/31**

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1. General Conference of the Seventh-Day Adventists

(Special status granted 1985)

Statement

The Seventh-Day Adventist Church seeks to lead people to a saving relationship with Jesus Christ and to enhance the quality of life not only for its members but for people in all nations of the world. The Seventh-Day Adventist Church and its institutions stand for the democratic principles of free exercise and non-establishment of religion. The Department of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty exists to promote and maintain religious liberty and help Seventh-Day Adventists who are persecuted for their faith. The Department personnel are the Church's representatives before Governments, international organizations and other religious organizations.

Membership

Our membership for 1994 was 8,382,558, and for the second quarter of 1997 was 9,479,718. Some 1996 statistics (the latest available) show that in 204 countries our organization had 147,526 active employees; owned and operated 5,978 schools (914,789 students); 587 hospitals, clinics, orphanages and other health-care facilities; and 44,108 welfare centres.

Affiliation with non-governmental organizations

Our organization cooperates with other NGOs and religious organizations. To build better understanding, we have official dialogues with the World Lutheran Federation, the Patriarchate of Constantinople and the World Reformed Alliance. The Church is a member of the World Christian Commission and an adviser to the World Council of Churches.

The Adventist Development and Relief Agency International (ADRA), now a United Nations-recognized NGO, is an important humanitarian organization, serving people in more than 140 countries. ADRA works with UNDP, UNHCR, UNESCO, the World Bank, the Canadian International Development Agency, UNICEF, USAID, the Australian Agency for International Development, the Australian Development Assistance Bureau, CARE, the United Way and many other global agencies. The Church provides 4 per cent of the ADRA budget.

Attendance at United Nations meetings

Every year, representatives from our organization attend the Commission on Human Rights at Geneva and the subcommissions in the fall (especially the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities). We have attendees at the annual NGO conferences in New York and Geneva. We have designated representatives in New York, Geneva and Vienna. We are in frequent, friendly contact with Professor Abdelfattah Amor, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on religious intolerance. Professor Amor was a principal guest speaker at the Fourth World Congress on Religious Liberty sponsored by our affiliate organization, the International Religious Liberty Association in 1997 at Rio de Janeiro.

To celebrate the Year of the Family in 1994, the Church's Family Ministries Department held family leadership development seminars in Antigua and Barbuda (11–17 January); Chiangmai, Thailand (6–15 February); Pune, India (17 February–2 March); Sydney (15–29 April); the Netherlands (17–31 May); and the United Kingdom (27 May–9 June).

In 1995, the same department conducted family leadership development seminars at Bloemfontein and Hartenbos, South Africa; in Malawi; at Cairo; and at Amman. In 1996, there were several family and parenting seminars in the United States (January–June) and Japan (3 May–8 June); and at Helsinki (28 July–4 August). In 1997, the department held seminars in the United States (January–June) and East Africa (7–29 April). The Church's Divorce and Remarriage Study Commission met in the United Kingdom (11–17 September 1997).

Representatives from our organization attended the Fourth World Conference on Women NGO Forum at Beijing (1995) and the meeting of the NGO Committee on the Family at Vienna in 1996.

Implementation of United Nations resolutions

Activities of the General Conference of Seventh-Day Adventists contribute to the promotion of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. The Church has strong programmes in education, health and religious freedom in harmony with United Nations recommendations. Our organization highlighted the United Nations proclamation of 1995 as the International Year of Tolerance with a written statement to our members from our quinquennial world convocation at Utrecht, the Netherlands.

The General Conference of Seventh-Day Adventists provides support to other organizations, such as the International Religious Liberty Association (IRLA), which organizes frequent regional and world congresses on religious freedom, including at Moscow (1996 and 1997), Budapest (1997) and Rio de Janeiro (1997). IRLA supports *Conscience et Liberté*, a journal published in six languages. The General Conference has been strongly involved in the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, with conferences and symposiums organized in many countries and on all continents.

Participation in the Economic and Social Council

One of our Church representatives was listed as a speaker on implementation of the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief at the fifty-fourth session of the Commission on Human Rights.

Cooperation with officials of the United Nations Secretariat

One of our Church representatives signed a joint statement on the independence of special rapporteurs, and wrote to the Presidents of Algeria, Indonesia and Austria in defence of human rights.

The General Conference of Seventh-Day Adventists supports and promotes the United Nations mission in favour of justice, peace and liberty in more than 200 countries. We plan to increase our presence at United Nations meetings and commissions and our general support.

2. Global Education Associates

(Special status granted 1989)

Introductory statement

Global Education Associates (GEA) is an association of individual and institutional associates in more than 90 countries working to advance global systems that will ensure ecological integrity, peace, human rights, economic and social well-being and democratic participation, with special care to include the voices and perspectives of poor and marginalized people of diverse cultural and religious traditions. In order to achieve this mission, GEA:

(a) Gathers leaders and stakeholders from diverse cultures and walks of life to share wisdom and analysis, propose shared solutions, and develop common strategies, alliances, partnerships for addressing critical global issues;

(b) Educates through interactive courses, seminars, workshops and publications which inspire, inform and empower people to become effective global citizens;

(c) Acts to initiate projects, catalyse movements and develop partnerships that advance this mission.

Participation in Economic and Social Council and United Nations conferences and meetings

GEA representatives have participated in many United Nations and United Nations-related conferences and meetings, including the International Conference on Population and Development (1994), the World Summit for Social Development (1995), the Fourth World Conference on Women (1995), the World Food Summit (1996), the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) (1996), the Microcredit Summit (1997), and the nineteenth special session of the General Assembly. The President of GEA addressed the NGO/DPI conference in 1997. In addition, one or more staff members of the GEA secretariat attend(s) the weekly DPI briefing, hold(s) membership in CONGO and participate(s) in the annual Commission on the Status of Women and the Commission on Sustainable Development.

Cooperation with United Nations-related programmes and bodies and specialized agencies

GEA cooperates programmatically with the following United Nations agencies:

(a) **UNICEF:** in 1995, the education for all (EFA) partnership was initiated. A part-time EFA coordinator was hired with a \$40,000 grant, and \$30,000 was raised to create two replicable collaborative projects between UNICEF and GEA religious orders partners in Kenya and South Africa. UNICEF contributed \$9,000 in 1996 and \$7,000 in 1997 towards this project;

(b) **UNESCO:** GEA has participated in the series of conferences on and promoted the theme "Contribution of religion to the culture of peace" in 1993, 1994 and 1998;

(c) **UNIFEM:** meetings were held with UNIFEM in November 1996 (Africa representative in New York office) to explore cooperation on a project for livelihood enhancement and economic mainstreaming of women at Kisumu, Kenya;

(d) **UNEP:** the GEA representative to the Council and DPI served as the Director of the UNEP Interfaith Partnership, and the alternate representative was on the committee for the Partnership, which sought to assist faith communities in establishing an environmental sabbath or holy day, and to raise awareness at the United Nations of the world's faith communities concern for and support of the environmental agenda;

(e) **Centre for Human Rights:** the GEA Program Director has worked through the Centre for educational and advocacy purposes. Much effort has focused on the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

(f) **UNITAR:** the President of GEA participated in April 1998 as a panellist in the United Nations/UNITAR series on sustainable development in practice;

(g) **World Bank:** meetings were held in 1996 and 1997 with the World Bank (New York and Washington) to explore collaboration on the development project at Kisumu, Kenya. Additional collaboration with the World Bank to explore the relationship between religion and economics is ongoing;

(h) **Department of Public Information:** GEA program directors have cooperated with DPI in educational efforts which have focused on the role of the United Nations and the United Nations role in peace and security.

Symposium: "United Nations in an interdependent world: past, present and future"

The symposium, held in July 1994, brought together representatives from 36 countries and representatives of United Nations agencies to examine the 50-year evolution of the United Nations and its specialized agencies and affiliated organizations, to explore proposals to strengthen and democratize the United Nations, to develop partnerships and strengthen collaboration between United Nations agencies and educational, religious, civic, youth and other non-governmental organizations and institutions to meet the new challenges; to develop educational programmes; to increase public awareness and support; and to prepare recommendations to the United Nations and to educational, religious, youth and civic sectors.

"Youth '95"

The symposium was created to empower youth to participate in, strengthen and reform the United Nations and to galvanize youth input through regional and local implementation of the United Nations world youth

programme and Agenda 21, chapter 25, and to overcome the obstacles that hinder youth from participation in United Nations decisions. Two related conferences that were co-sponsored by Global Education Associates are: "Youth '95: alliance for progressive global change" in June 1995 and a Bretton Woods fiftieth anniversary youth conference in August 1995.

Colloquium on work and employment in the twenty-first century

The colloquium, held in November 1995, brought together economists, representatives from business and labour and UNDP to address the questions of employment and work in the emerging global economy.

Earth Covenant/Earth Charter Partnership

The Earth Covenant process entered into a partnership with the Earth Charter Initiative that was launched in April 1994 by Green Cross (headed by Mikail Gorbachev) and the Earth Council (headed by Maurice Strong). The two efforts are complementary. The Charter initiative and timeline enhances the political relevance of the Covenant's citizens' movement for ecological-economic security. Conversely, the Covenant's multisectoral movement — with its fourth principle's focus on global governance and strengthened United Nations structures — enhances the possibility that the Charter will have the broad political support and public will needed to move legislatures and heads of State by a binding charter. GEA, through its affiliates and associates, conducted over 45 consultations in Canada, Ireland, Italy, Spain, the United States and Uganda which were input for the Earth Charter benchmark draft approved by the assembly gathered at Rio de Janeiro in March 1997.

Round-table discussions

Two round tables which included members of the Board of GEA and representatives of UNEP, UNESCO, UNICEF and UNIFEM and Ambassador Claudia Fritche were held in April and November 1997 to explore major global trends and the values and concerns within those trends and response needed to address those trends.

Education Council

This Council includes representatives of diverse educational constituencies, formal and informal, public and private, higher and secondary, and primary. Members are examining education's role vis-à-vis problems and opportunities emerging from economic and ecological

interdependence. Special attention is being given to proposals from the 1990 "Education for all" conference.

Religion and world order programme

In partnership with secular NGOs and United Nations agencies, this programme includes multireligious perspectives to facilitate dialogue, scholarship and professional expertise to contribute to a shared global ethic and to the development of strengthened, just and participatory international systems. GEA involvement in UNESCO's programme "Contribution of religion to a culture of peace" has sought to explore ways to draw from religious strengths and structures in building a culture of peace.

Religious orders partnership

Increasing globalization and interdependence necessitate the development of more humane and effective global systems. Religious orders reach many people through their schools, universities, health-care, social and community service. GEA provides a forum where religious orders networks can serve the global community. Through partnership with United Nations agencies (i.e., UNICEF in Africa), religious orders can understand and respond more creatively to the crises and opportunities of our interdependent world and be more effective in efforts for global systemic change.

3. Greek Orthodox Archdiocesan Council of North and South America

(General status granted 1985)

Aims and purpose

The Greek Orthodox Archdiocesan Council of North and South America (GOAC) is an international organization having members in the United States of America, Canada and Central and South America. It is dedicated to supporting programmes in developing countries, such as Uganda, Kenya, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ghana, the Republic of Korea, Nigeria, the United Republic of Tanzania, and in other parts of the world.

A humanitarian and family-oriented body whose budget is based on family membership, GOAC is concerned with the United Nations principles of maintaining peace and security in the world; working together with the nations of the world to promote better welfare, education and health

conditions; encouraging respect for the individual rights and freedoms, of enhancing the status of women; and condemning racism and racial discrimination in the world.

Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies, conferences and other United Nations meetings through attendance at meetings, oral and/or written statements

GOAC United Nations representatives regularly attend sessions of the Economic and Social Council and other conferences and meetings held by bodies of the United Nations. GOAC is a member of CONGO and a member of NGO committees on the family, youth, ageing, narcotics and substance abuse, human rights and freedom of religion and belief.

GOAC United Nations representatives participated in all annual DPI/NGOs conferences from 1994 to 1997 at United Nations Headquarters.

GOAC United Nations representatives attended:

- (a) The January 1994 and August 1994 sessions of the Preparatory Committee for the World Summit for Social Development;
- (b) Sessions of the Commission on Sustainable Development in May 1994 and April 1997;
- (c) The International Day of the Elderly symposium in September 1994;
- (d) The Preparatory Committee for the Fourth World Conference on Women in March 1995;
- (e) Sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women in April 1995 and March 1997;
- (f) The Fourth World Conference on Women in September 1995 (Beijing);
- (g) World Habitat Day sponsored by Habitat in October 1995;
- (h) Preparatory Committee of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) in February 1996;
- (i) Thirty-fifth session of the Commission on Social Development in February 1997;
- (j) The General Assembly special session on the review of the implementation of Agenda 21. They also participated in NGO meetings on the review.

GOAC United Nations representatives made the following oral and written statements:

(a) In August 1994, an oral statement on freedom of religion and belief was made before the forty-sixth session of the Subcommission of the Commission on Human Rights on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities;

(b) In March 1996, a joint written statement was made to the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-second session, recommending that the General Assembly designate an annual international day for freedom of religion and belief;

(c) In March 1997, a joint written statement was made to the Commission on Social Development at its thirty-fifth session urging the need to adopt a declaration on family.

Cooperation with United Nations programmes and bodies and specialized agencies

GOAC established medical clinics, schools and community centres in Kenya, Uganda and Nigeria, in cooperation with WHO, UNESCO and UNICEF. Those social development programmes have expanded to include Cameroon, Chad, Albania, Poland, Slovakia, India, Mexico, the Philippines, Indonesia, Romania, Costa Rica and Haiti.

GOAC organized UNICEF fund drives to build water wells in Africa, assist homeless and street children, and promote child immunization and oral rehydration. Recent donations targeted aid to children of war-torn Bosnia and Herzegovina. Donations to UNICEF amounted to \$40,000.

In the field of disaster relief, GOAC cooperated with United Nations bodies to assist famine relief in Somalia, Ethiopia, the Sudan and Rwanda. GOAC also sent food and health kits to the Russian Federation and former Yugoslavia. Earthquake, hurricane and flood victims were assisted in Bangladesh, Mexico, Greece, California and Florida.

Other relevant activities

Action in implementation of United Nations resolutions

In implementing Economic and Social Council resolution 1987/24, GOAC is continuing to support groups and workshops throughout the Archdiocese to eradicate violence against women within the family. It conducts programmes to assist with drug prevention, AIDS and family problems. It continues its efforts to work with national coalitions to assist the homeless, set up food banks and provide housing for the homeless.

Consultation and cooperation with officials of the United Nations Secretariat

GOAC participated in the Open-Ended Working Group on Review of Consultative Arrangements with NGOs in June 1994.

Preparation of papers and/or other material at the request of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies or of the United Nations Secretariat

GOAC cooperated with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights by submitting its position paper on conflict prevention, peacemaking, peacekeeping and peace-building. ¹

Other examples of consultative and substantive activities, including financial assistance received from or given to the United Nations, field-level collaboration, joint sponsorship of meetings, seminars, studies etc.

As an original member of the NGO Working Group on the Family, GOAC promotes the strengthening of the family. Its 1994 biennial convention had the theme "Celebrating the family". Workshops and seminars have been conducted throughout the parishes worldwide, addressing problems families face: single parenting, divorce, AIDS, alcoholism, drugs, domestic violence and ageing parents. In conjunction with United Nations agencies, religious groups, NGOs, national and local governments, guidebooks, visual resources and social programmes were initiated in order to prevent family breakdowns.

The protection of the environment has been the topic of several symposia conducted by GOAC. An Orthodox summit on environment was held at Baltimore, United States of America, on 3 November 1995. Another was held at Santa Barbara, United States, on 6 November 1998. 1 September 1998 has been declared the Day of the Protection of the Environment throughout the parishes worldwide.

GOAC participated in celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations. GOAC disseminated information on the United Nations through the *Orthodox Observer*, its newspaper; *Mission*, a monthly magazine; newsletters; and its conferences, at which seminars and workshops are held on United Nations resolutions. Its Communications Department produces videos on the United Nations, the family, the environment, drug abuse etc., which are distributed worldwide.

Geographical distribution

325,000 families	United States
22,000 families	Canada
300 families	Bahamas
300 families	Cuba
300 families	Mexico
600 families	Panama
4,500 families	Argentina
300 families	Bolivia
2,100 families	Brazil
900 families	Chile
300 families	Colombia
300 families	Peru
300 families	Uruguay
900 families	Venezuela

GOAC serves and funds constituencies in Uganda, Kenya, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ghana, the Republic of Korea, Nigeria, the United Republic of Tanzania, Cameroon, Chad, Albania, Poland, Slovakia, India, Mexico, the Philippines, Indonesia, Romania, Costa Rica and Haiti.

4. Habitat International Coalition**(Special status granted 1981)****Introduction and statement of aims and purposes of the organization**

Habitat International Coalition (HIC) is an independent, international non-profit coalition, currently integrating more than 300 organizations and 100 individual members from more than 80 countries. Members include NGOs, community-based organizations, academic and research institutions and other civil society bodies working in the area of human settlements. HIC coordinates with many other partners, including other international non-governmental organizations, federations of community organizations, municipal government networks, United Nations programmes, etc. Many of its activities are managed through HIC committees on housing rights, habitat and environment, and women and shelter, and through its regional networks.

The objectives of Habitat International Coalition, as stated in its constitution, are as follows:

(a) The association is dedicated to action for the recognition, defence and full implementation of the right of

everyone to a secure place in which to live in peace and dignity, in all countries;

(b) It acts as an international pressure group in defence of the rights of the homeless, the poor and the inadequately housed. It promotes the creation of awareness among the public in general about human settlements problems, as well as the exchange of information on these problems and their solutions among its members. It functions as a platform for the formulation of non-governmental organizations policies and strategies in the field of human settlements. It acts as their spokesperson in contacts with international organizations;

(c) The association aims to attain these objectives by means of the mounting of campaigns, the undertaking of seminars and conferences, the publication of statements, reports, newsletters and other study and information materials, the undertaking of research and other projects, the support of networks and information exchanges, and any other legal means.

**Participation in Economic and Social
Council and subsidiaries and other
United Nations meetings**

Active work in several United Nations and Council bodies, and other United Nations organizations, programmes, conferences and activities, is a central part of the work of HIC. A complete outline is not possible within the scope of this report. Below we have outlined only some of the most important activities.

**Committee on Economic, Social and
Cultural Rights**

HIC delegations, managed by the HIC-affiliated Center on Housing Rights and Evictions (COHRE) and the HIC Housing Rights Committee, participated in all of the sessions of the Committee during the past four years (sessions 10 through 18), and in total have participated in 17 of the 18 sessions of the Committee since its inception. Interventions include oral and written statements at all sessions, the preparation and wide dissemination of reports and press statements on the outcomes of the sessions, and the monitoring of follow-up to and implementation of Committee recommendations and decisions. HIC also facilitates the preparation and submission of reports in relation to the right to housing by its members and other civil society contacts in the countries reviewed, and the participation in the sessions of civil society representatives from the countries.

Commission on Human Settlements

HIC has sent active delegations to all the Commission sessions, and has collaborated and even taken the initiative in follow-up to the outcomes of those sessions. One example of HIC follow-up to Commission decisions is the research project "Government/non-government cooperation in the field of human settlements", carried out by HIC with the support of the Government of the Netherlands, in response to the decision of the Commission at its thirteenth session calling for research on collaboration in human settlements development. The three-year project produced 34 case studies of cooperation experiences, all available in published form, as well as the book *Building the City with the People*, which incorporates cross-analyses of the studies and project conclusions.

United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)

HIC collaboration in the Habitat II process began since 1993, and included participation in all of the Habitat II preparatory meetings, and in a very large number of other official United Nations and governmental, and international, regional and national civil society preparatory activities. HIC regional networks and committees organized their own Habitat II processes to contribute to the Conference; the myriad of activities, projects, meetings, publications and other contributions of these civil society processes developed, managed and promoted by HIC and its members could not be listed within this brief space, which notes only some direct HIC contributions to the official process.

Experts meetings attended include an expert seminar on the right to adequate housing, held on 18 and 19 January 1996 at Geneva, co-sponsored by the Centre for Human Rights and Habitat; an expert seminar on children's rights, housing and neighbourhood, held on 1 and 2 February 1996, organized by UNICEF, and an expert panel organized by Habitat in January 1996. HIC and COHRE contributed to the preparation of several official and NGO documents for Habitat II. For example, contributions were made to the critique of the Habitat Agenda prepared by the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD), and the publications series of the Centre for Human Rights, which included a compilation of national legislations on housing rights, a fact sheet on forced evictions, and the final report of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the right to housing.

HIC and several of its members assumed central roles in the NGO International Facilitating Group (IFG), which coordinated the NGO Forum held in conjunction with

Habitat II, and helped facilitate NGO contributions to the Conference. HIC and its members continue follow-up to the Conference, including through such activities as the publication and dissemination of popular versions and manuals of the Habitat Agenda, the monitoring of Habitat Agenda implementation etc.

Fourth World Conference on Women

A five-woman delegation of the HIC Women and Shelter Network participated in the Fourth World Conference on Women at Beijing. The HIC delegation was financed by the Habitat women in human settlements programme. The delegation, together with other women's networks, collaborated with the Habitat programme in a joint statement.

Cooperation with United Nations programmes and bodies and specialized agencies

Activities of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

The Committee calls on HIC and its affiliate, COHRE, to support many of its activities. COHRE regularly provides expertise to Committee members on the right to housing. COHRE and HIC collaborate directly in activities oriented towards the implementation of the right to housing. Between 16 and 22 April 1995, the HIC General Secretary accompanied as an observer a Committee delegation to Panama to follow up on the appearance of Panama at the eleventh session of the Committee.

Centre on Human Rights

HIC actively supports activities of the Centre on Human Rights and its other bodies. For example, HIC and COHRE collaborated in an expert seminar on the practice of forced evictions, held at Geneva between 11 and 13 June 1997, called for by the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities.

UNDP programmes

HIC maintains relations with many UNDP programmes and activities. The Latin American network works closely with the regional office of the Urban Management Programme (managed with the World Bank and Habitat). The Asian network (ACHR) is a close colleague in the activities of the Asia-Pacific 2000 programme. At the international level, HIC undertook one of the two interregional research projects financed through the UNDP Life programme. The three-year project was entitled

"Promotion of sustainable technologies in drinking water and sanitation services in urban settlements". Publications are available on the experiences identified, researched and analysed, the cross-analyses of the experiences, and a synthesis of the final results.

Habitat

HIC has followed the work of Habitat since its inception, and its collaboration has increased since Habitat II, in which Habitat acknowledged and supported the role and perspective of NGOs. One example is the co-sponsoring by HIC of a conference on urban poverty held at Florence in September 1997. HIC is now a founding member of the Forum on Urban Poverty. The HIC Women and Shelter Network collaborates very closely with the Habitat women in human settlements programme. Habitat has provided financial support for some HIC activities, including the 1994 and 1995 HIC annual meetings. Habitat delegates also participate in HIC annual meetings.

5. International Council on Social Welfare

(General status granted 1972)

The International Council on Social Welfare is a global non-governmental organization representing a range of national and international member organizations in over 70 countries, mainly in the developing world. ICSW aims to promote sound and sustainable forms of social and economic development which reduce poverty, vulnerability and hardship. ICSW advocates the fundamental rights to shelter, food, health care and security, and carries out its goals through research and policy-making, information dissemination, membership support, training and public advocacy.

Through the years 1994–1997, ICSW membership levels grew substantially. This increase in members, particularly on the African and Asian continents, was helped by the addition of a new category of membership in 1994. Along with ICSW national committees and international members, an "Other members" category was included; members who fall into this category promote more specific areas of social development. Through the inclusion of this new category, many smaller non-governmental organizations on the African and Asian continents became active members of ICSW. To date, ICSW has gained 31 new members since 1994, and has seen a 10 per cent increase in membership in

1997. In the coming years, ICSW looks forward to a further increase in membership.

Since 1975, the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) has been an important source of funding for ICSW. From the years 1994–1996, the Agency contributed US\$ 252,581 towards the World Summit for Social Development and US\$ 127,495 for the Summit follow-up programme. In addition, the Royal Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs funds ICSW's quarterly publication, *Social Development Review*, which began in August of 1996. This publication includes information about global development issues, and offers an opportunity for worldwide information exchanges, particularly among non-governmental organizations, with a special focus on Summit follow-up.

With the financial assistance of CIDA, ICSW launched an official social development Web site at the end of 1997. The Web site was created in order to enhance global communication about social development and welfare issues. As well as offering information on Summit implementation, the site offers updates on ICSW activities and links to sites of affiliated organizations whenever possible. The ICSW site can be reached at:

<http://www.icsw.org>

Along with ICSW membership fees, which follow a United Nations scale of world shares, and vary from US\$ 200 to US\$ 35,000, ICSW's most recent financial support has come from Montreal International (MI), the Commonwealth Foundation, the Australian International Aid agency (AusAID), UNDP, the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, the European Union and the Government of the Netherlands. The Finnish International Development Agency (FINNIDA) supported development initiatives in the African and Latin American regions for the years 1994–1996.

ICSW affiliation with organizations that hold consultative status with the Council has not changed substantially through the years 1994–1997. ICSW international member organizations that hold consultative status include Planned Parenthood International, Helpage International, the International Catholic Migration Commission, the International Council of Jewish Women, the International Council of Jewish Welfare Services, the International Federation on Ageing, the International Federation of Settlements and Neighbourhood Centres, and the International Social Service.

In 1994, ICSW was very active in the Summit process. ICSW was represented in three Preparatory Committee meetings at the United Nations in New York, and participated actively in meetings at Copenhagen. ICSW

organized a regular issues forum on Summit issues, as well as many social development conferences on Summit issues shortly before the Summit, including a conference at Tampere, Finland, in July 1994, Helsinki in July 1994 and Bangkok in July 1994, the latter, in collaboration with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

At Copenhagen, ICSW organized an international conference entitled: "Beyond the Summit: shared responsibilities for a shared world", as well as circulating 12 policy papers that were considered in the final Summit agreements.

During 1994 and 1995, ICSW printed four issues of an NGO Summit newsletter that were mailed free of charge, a list of NGOs involved in the three preparatory conferences and the Summit processes. In total, 31,500 copies were distributed. FINNIDA and CIDA helped fund these important newsletters.

Many ICSW activities after 1995 involved follow-up forums and discussions concerning implementation of the agreements made at the World Summit for Social Development at Copenhagen. ICSW has made it a priority to arrange subregional NGO forums to discuss implementation of Summit agreements and the review prior to the United Nations follow-up meeting in 2000. Summit follow-up workshops were held in Portugal in April 1995, New Zealand in November 1995, Botswana in May 1996 and Brazil in May 1996. ICSW organized an international conference on Summit implementation in October 1995, where key speakers included United Nations Ambassador Juan Somavia of Chile and Ana Maria Brasileiro of UNIFEM. In addition, three African workshops on Summit implementation were held in 1997. These workshops were held in Ghana in September 1997, Zimbabwe in July 1997 and Tunis in December 1997.

ICSW was represented at an international UNRISD conference on the theme "Advancing the social agenda: two years after Copenhagen" at Geneva in July 1997. ICSW World President Julian Disney addressed the conference. Mr. Disney also addressed the Council at its substantive session of 1997 at Geneva.

In order to improve communication and collaboration regarding Summit follow-ups, the UNDP Administrator at Geneva, James Gustave Speth, signed a memorandum of understanding with ICSW President Julian Disney in July of 1997. The memorandum outlined poverty eradication as a top priority for UNDP and ICSW collaboration, and included suggestions for practical and effective implementation of Summit agreements. The memorandum is to be reviewed annually in order to evaluate its

effectiveness; ICSW is now pursuing implementation of the agreements made in the memorandum.

ICSW has given emphasis to arranging intergovernmental discussions at regional and subregional levels. ICSW has held meetings with representatives of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the Economic Commission for Europe, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Nordic Council, the Southern African Development Community and the Asian Pacific Economic Cooperation Group.

In September 1997, ICSW organized with ESCAP a conference of Asia and Pacific NGOs at Kuala Lumpur to discuss Summit implementation in the Asia and Pacific region. All 28 countries that were represented prepared a statement, to be presented at the first ministerial meeting on Summit implementation held in November 1997, entitled "Message to Manila". A forum on Summit implementation was also held at Sao Paulo for the Latin American region, which was organized by ICSW's Brazilian committee and also prepared a statement for the ministerial meeting at Sao Paulo.

In addition, ICSW submitted three policy papers to the Commission for Social Development at its 1997 meeting. The first paper dealt with how the Commission might more effectively implement Summit agreements by strengthening its structures and its processes. The second gave suggestions about projects that would advance Summit implementation and some priority issues for the Commission to consider in the following year.

The third paper was produced during the successful ICSW global NGO forum on sustainable livelihoods in February 1997, and included suggestions for the Commission's resolution on employment and sustainable livelihoods. The forum included senior United Nations official speakers and NGO leaders from five continents, and was attended by more than 200 people.

ICSW held an NGO forum in New York before the Commission for Social Development meeting in New York in 1998 that also dealt with strategies for Summit implementation. ICSW has already submitted four policy papers to the Commission in 1998, and will be submitting a policy paper to the Council in 1998. ICSW continues to be active in Summit implementation, and will continue its regional NGO forums.

ICSW activities through the years 1994-1997 have helped to expand its membership, strengthen its resources

and create new prospects for Summit implementation; ICSW has therefore remained true to its mission.

6. International Organization for Standardization (ISO)

(General status granted 1947)

The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies from some 130 countries, one from each country. ISO is a non-governmental organization established in 1947. The mission of ISO is to promote the development of standardization and related activities in the world with a view to facilitating the international exchange of goods and services, and to developing cooperation in the spheres of intellectual, scientific, technological and economic activity. ISO's work results in international agreements which are published as international standards.

ISO representatives attend the sessions of the Council or its committees at which matters of concern to ISO are discussed. The main ISO contributions to the Council as a whole during the past four years have been through the regional economic commissions (mainly ECE), other United Nations bodies (e.g., Habitat, UNCTAD, UNEP) and such committees as the Committee on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. In addition, there is active collaboration between ISO and most of the specialized agencies of the United Nations system.

Cooperation with the regional commission

Economic Commission for Europe

ISO is actively involved in a large proportion of the activities of ECE. ISO representatives participate in the meetings of the Working Party on Standardization Policies. ISO is making direct contributions to the work of and attending meetings of the following ECE principal subsidiary bodies and/or their subordinate bodies:

- (a) Committee on Energy;
- (b) Committee on Housing, Building and Planning;
- (c) Inland Transport Committee;
- (d) Committee on the Development of Trade/Working Party on Facilitation of International Trade Procedures;

(e) Working Party on Engineering Industries and Automation;

(f) Timber Committee;

(g) Working Party on the Chemical Industry.

ISO representatives participate in 40 to 50 meetings of the above bodies every year, in addition to numerous informal discussions with the ECE secretariat. Some 168 ISO committees in different fields have liaison with ECE.

In relation to UN/EDIFACT, ISO and ECE have a memorandum of understanding in the area of electronic data interchanges and this is currently being extended to cover all fields of electronic business.

Economic Commission for Africa

Relations between ECA and ISO have been sustained by the exchange of documentation and invitations to meetings of mutual interest.

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

A good deal of ECLAC interest in ISO work lies in the field of transportation, including transportation by inland waterways in the context of ECLAC activity on integrated river basin planning. At ECLAC's request, regular liaisons have been arranged between ECLAC and the ISO technical committee on freight containers and the ISO subcommittee on inland navigation.

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

ISO is represented at many ESCAP meetings, both at regional workshops on technical subjects of interest to ISO and at ESCAP regular sessions. Cooperation between ISO and ESCAP is particularly active in the field of hydrometric determination and agricultural machinery. Some 23 ISO committees in different fields have liaison with ESCAP. The Trade Information Service of ESCAP is supplied, on demand, with copies of standards publications of ISO.

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

ESCWA is in liaison with 12 ISO committees in different fields.

Cooperation with other United Nations bodies

United Nations Centre for Human Settlements

ISO continues to have contacts with Habitat by means of the normal ISO liaison procedures for committees in which Habitat has an interest. Six ISO committees have liaison with Habitat.

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

ISO is closely involved with UNCTAD in the discussions regarding availability of international standards for freight containers. ISO participates in meetings of the Committee on Transfer of Technology and the Services Development Committee (Shipping), and is represented at UNCTAD sessions. Also, cooperation between ISO and UNCTAD has lately developed extensively in the field of environment. Some 23 ISO committees in different fields have liaison with UNCTAD. Cooperation also exists in the framework of ITC-UNCTAD/WTO on questions concerning management standards (quality and environment) and their relationship to trade, in training in fields of mutual interest, and in the organization of seminars on the role of standards in trade promotion.

United Nations Environment Programme

ISO committees dealing with terminology, methods of sampling and analysis of pollutants in the atmosphere, water and soil, and the measurement of environmental noise and vibrations contribute relevant information to UNEP. Close contacts are maintained with UNEP offices at Geneva and Paris. Some 15 ISO committees have liaison with UNEP.

An active collaboration has been established with the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) in the area of animal identification.

Cooperation with specialized agencies of the United Nations system

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

FAO has liaison status with ISO committees in various areas (e.g., tractors and machinery for agriculture and forestry, terminology, sawn timber, common names for pesticides and other agrochemicals).

Through its collaboration with the Codex Alimentarius Commission and some of the specialized Codex committees, ISO contributes to the implementation of the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme. This collaboration

is based on ISO policy in the field of agricultural food products, which defines relevant ISO responsibilities and helps to avoid duplication of effort between the two organizations in the area of food products for direct human consumption. A particularly close collaboration exists with the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling, which has adopted many of the standard methods developed by ISO.

International Telecommunication Union

Because of the rapid development in the field of information technology, relations between ISO and ITU have become highly interactive on account of the growing convergence of information technology and telecommunications; representatives of both bodies hold joint meetings or attend each other's meetings several times a year. In the committees, joint projects continue to be developed under joint collaborative procedures. ISO and ITU collaborate very actively in the area of the global information society, and were instrumental in sponsoring a global standards conference at Brussels (1-3 October 1997). Relations with ITU have also developed in the area of recording for broadcasting and use of film in television.

United Nations Industrial Development Organization

Close cooperation between ISO and UNIDO, particularly in the area of standardization in the industrializing process, continues. UNIDO is invited to attend ISO meetings of relevance to UNIDO programmes, and ISO is invited to UNIDO meetings concerned with standardization and its applications in developing countries. In implementation of the memorandum of understanding signed in 1979 by the ISO Secretary-General and the UNIDO Executive Director (now Director General), the two organizations are now implementing a programme of cooperation which includes the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) as a third partner to assist developing countries in achieving recognition of their certification activities in world markets. This programme envisages holding a training workshop for auditors of accreditation bodies, carrying out some pilot pre-audits and then offering to accreditation bodies in developing countries a pre-audit service in preparation for their adherence to the IAF multilateral agreement.

Other specialized agencies of the United Nations system

Close contacts and active collaboration are also maintained between relevant ISO committees and the

specialized agencies of the United Nations system, particularly IAEA, ICAO, the ILO, IMO, UPU, WHO, WIPO and WMO, on subjects of mutual interest.

7. International Organization for the Development of Freedom of Education (OIDEL)

(Special status granted 1989)

The goal of OIDEL, which was established in 1985, is to promote the right to education, specifically from the point of view of freedom. Founded by education experts and political figures, OIDEL is a non-profit public interest organization. It is funded by some 500 individual and institutional members from 54 different countries and all five continents. It also receives occasional support from various institutions.

Activities: 1994 (in cooperation with the United Nations)

OIDEL participated in the work of the Commission on Human Rights. Its representatives made statements under agenda items 11, 20 and 7 (in cooperation with Entr'aide universitaire mondiale and the American Association for the Advancement of Science). It also participated in the work of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, where it took part in the discussions on racial discrimination (agenda item 5), economic, social and cultural rights (agenda item 8) and minorities (agenda item 18). OIDEL helped to ensure mention of the right to education in two resolutions (1994/40 and 1994/37).

OIDEL participated in the forty-fourth international conference on education of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), held in Geneva, where it made several statements and contacted representatives of various Ministries of Education.

OIDEL also participated in the session of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, where it took part in the discussion on human rights education. It prepared a working paper on that subject, which was issued by the United Nations.

OIDEL submitted a report on the Green book on education to the Commission of the European Communities. It organized its fourth international symposium on the theme: "A United and Plural Europe: The Role of Public Authorities in Education", in cooperation with the Commission of the

European Communities and the Forum démocratique européen. The proceedings of the symposium have been published and are available from OIDEL.

Lastly, OIDEL addressed the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on the question of human rights education.

Activities: 1995 (in cooperation with the United Nations)

OIDEL participated in the work of the Commission on Human Rights; several statements were made in cooperation with Entr'aide universitaire mondiale (agenda items 8 and 22).

It also spoke before the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities (agenda items 8, 16, 18 and 20), arguing in favour of an optional protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. It participated in the work of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on the definition of human development indicators and increased its involvement in the work of the Centre for Human Rights. It addressed the Committee regarding its *Rapport sur l'état de la liberté d'enseignement dans le monde* (Report on freedom of education in the world), which is based on indicators taken from international human rights instruments.

In cooperation with the European Forum for Freedom in Education and Entr'aide universitaire mondiale, OIDEL published in four languages a collection entitled *Declarations and International Conventions on the Right of Education and Liberty in Education*, a compilation of legal instruments dealing with the right to education.

OIDEL organized the first session of the University Summer School on human rights and the right to education, pursuant to the goals established at the World Conference on Human Rights (Vienna, 1993). The University Summer School is part of the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education and has the support of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Centre for Human Rights. Students attended several meetings of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities and of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

Nicomague, a multicultural youth group sponsored by OIDEL, expanded its activities during 1995, which the United Nations declared the International Year of Tolerance. The group participated in the European Youth Campaign against Racism, Anti-Semitism, Xenophobia and Intolerance

(Council of Europe). In that connection, OIDEL published a brochure entitled *Comprendre la tolérance: des idées pour interioriser la tolérance et le respect d'autrui* (Understanding tolerance: Ideas for internalizing tolerance and respect for others).

At the United Nations, in cooperation with the Centre for Human Rights, OIDEL organized a workshop on the theme: "The Right to Education, Academic Freedom and Freedom of Education".

Activities: 1996 (in cooperation with the United Nations)

OIDEL participated in the work of the Commission on Human Rights (agenda items 5 and 6); the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities (on the subject of economic, social and cultural rights, mentioning the University Summer School on human rights and the right to education); and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, where its representatives spoke three times in 1995 on economic, social and cultural rights and on the question of an optional protocol.

In cooperation with *Entr'aide universitaire mondiale*, it organized its University Summer School on human rights and the right to education and established it as an ongoing programme.

It also established a platform for non-governmental organizations in the field of human rights and participated in a discussion on development organized by the Centre for Human Rights, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Inter-Parliamentary Union. A document on that subject was issued.

In October 1996, OIDEL participated in a UNESCO international conference on education on the topic "Strengthening the Role of Teachers in a Changing World", and made a statement in plenary session.

Activities: 1997 (in cooperation with the United Nations)

OIDEL participated in the work of the Commission on Human Rights (agenda items 5, 6, 14 and 17).

On the periphery of the Commission on Human Rights and in cooperation with the Financial Monitoring Centre, OIDEL organized a discussion on the topic "*Globalisation financière et droits de l'homme*" ("Financial globalization and human rights").

In 1997, OIDEL cooperated in the preparation of a resolution of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of

Discrimination and Protection of Minorities on the realization of the right to education, including education in human rights. It participated actively in the drafting of the working paper which Professor Mustapha Mehedi had been asked to prepare on that general topic. That document would be submitted to the Sub-Commission at its fiftieth session.

Resolution 1997/7 of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities was followed by General Assembly resolution 52/127 on the right to education. It also inspired Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/33, which appointed a special rapporteur on the right to education, and led to the inclusion of the right to education in the agenda of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. OIDEL prepared a study entitled *Droit à l'éducation: états des lieux et perspectives* (The right to education: The current situation and prospects for the future), which would be submitted to that Committee in the first half of 1998.

OIDEL participated in the work of the Commission on Human Rights, where its representatives made two statements, one on the Decade for Human Rights Education and the other on the question of economic, social and cultural rights.

It also participated in a UNESCO meeting on the occasion of the adoption of new UNESCO regulations, under which OIDEL has consultative status.

Another session of the University Summer School on human rights and the right to education was held. There were about 200 applicants for 45 available slots; 50 professors were hired. The University Summer School on human rights and the right to education acquired a scientific council and prepared for a change in its legal status.

8. International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF)

(General status granted 1973)

Introduction

The International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) links national autonomous family planning associations (FPAs) in 155 countries worldwide, with some 20 new members during the period under review. It is the world's largest voluntary organization in the field of sexual and reproductive health, including family planning, and it works on a global scale to promote and provide services, and to develop public support for sustainable population,

environment and development policies. The Federation operates on a budget of US\$ 80–125 million per year, and FPAs also raise funds locally. Core funding has fallen during the period from \$125m in 1995 to \$92m in 1997.

Participation in United Nations meetings

IPPF has regularly attended the meetings of the Commission on Population and Development, the Commission on the Status of Women and the Commission for Social Development. IPPF has also been represented at a number of regional conferences, including sessions of ESCAP and the ESCAP Fifth Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Social Development (November 1997). It has presented written and oral statements at these meetings. IPPF played an important role in the preparatory process for the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), with the IPPF President chairing the last two sessions of the Preparatory Committee and the Main Committee of the Conference itself. More than 80 IPPF member family planning associations were represented on their government delegations to ICPD.

IPPF also attended and made statements at the World Summit for Social Development (Copenhagen, 1995), the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, 1995) and the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) (Istanbul, 1996).

Cooperation with United Nations programmes and specialized agencies

Collaboration with UNFPA was strengthened by meetings between the Secretary-General and the Executive Director of UNFPA, and a revised memorandum of understanding between the two organizations. The IPPF Charter on Sexual and Reproductive Rights, launched in 1996, is largely founded on United Nations human rights instruments; the Charter was featured in UNFPA's 1997 *State of World Population Report*. IPPF collaborated with UNFPA in "Generation 97", a survey of youth attitudes towards sexual health in 54 countries. IPPF is also collaborating with UNFPA in the "Face-to-face campaign", set up in 1996 to establish collaboration among NGOs in 19 Western European countries to raise awareness of the need for funds for population-related activities in the developing world.

IPPF has chaired the inter-agency group of four United Nations agencies (UNICEF, WHO, UNFPA, World Bank) and two NGOs (Population Council, IPPF) on safe motherhood, and coordinated a technical consultation on safe motherhood at Colombo in October 1997. IPPF

collaborates closely with WHO in many areas. IPPF regularly attends meetings of the World Health Assembly and the WHO Executive Board, and takes part in major WHO technical meetings on contraception, family planning service delivery, gender/women and youth. IPPF is the only permanent NGO member of the Human Reproduction Programme Coordinating Committee, and is represented at meetings of interested parties of the Programme. IPPF also participates in WHO regional committees. IPPF collaborates with UNESCO on the training of country support teams to promote sexual and reproductive health. There is country-level collaboration with UNICEF on safe motherhood and sexual and reproductive health. IPPF representatives attended UNFPA regional meetings at Amman on reproductive health and ICPD (November 1996), and at Copenhagen on youth and reproductive health (June 1997). The IPPF European Network was the key organizer for the UNFPA-funded European Parliamentarians' meeting on implementing the ICPD Programme of Action at Brussels (May 1995). IPPF South Asian region representatives attended and Asian Pacific ministerial conference in preparation for the World Summit for Social Affairs at Manila (October 1994), a UNICEF safe motherhood conference at Chandigarh, India (1994), and an EC/UNFPA initiative for reproductive health in South Asia conference at Lahore, Pakistan (December 1997).

Other relevant activities

IPPF Secretary-General Halfdan Mahler was presented with the 1995 United Nations Population Award for his distinguished career in public health, which has included strong leadership in reproductive health, family planning and worldwide population issues.

IPPF and its member family planning associations have been particularly active in implementing the ICPD Programme of Action, and are involved in the preparations for ICPD follow-up meetings. There is much collaboration at the regional and national levels with United Nations agencies, especially UNFPA. Some examples are:

- (a) IPPF has initiated programmes on youth and reproductive health in Cambodia and Viet Nam, with support from UNFPA and the European Community;
- (b) IPPF has been appointed executing agency for the UNFPA reproductive health/family planning subprogramme for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (1998–2001);
- (c) During the reporting period, a total of 33 projects, with IPPF member family planning associations in

India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, were partially or fully funded by United Nations bodies;

(d) Since 1994, UNFPA has supported international advocacy and information projects with FPAs in Austria, France, Spain and Switzerland. In April 1997, UNFPA supported and organized a study tour to Viet Nam for parliamentarians, journalists and NGO representatives from Austria, Finland and Switzerland;

(e) The IPPF office at Almaty collaborates as technical implementing agency for UNFPA projects in the Central Asian Republics.

9. International Prisoners Aid Association

(Special status granted 1965)

General background

IPAA was founded 44 years ago by voluntary organizations in North America who were devoted to after-care of prisoners and related activities. Since its foundation in 1950, IPAA membership has grown over the years to include more than 40 organizations, representing about 30 countries all over the world. In 1965, the Association received consultative status with the United Nations; it was granted the same status by the Council of Europe in 1971, and became a charter member of the NGOs Alliance in 1972. In recent years, IPAA has endured some difficulties due to budget shortages and lack of paid staff. Through volunteer service, however, its endeavours in offenders care has continued, and it is now preparing a worldwide directory of offenders care agencies.

Main objectives

The principal purpose of IPAA is to provide for the international dissemination and exchange of information and experiences regarding offender rehabilitation and crime prevention; to encourage the establishment and growth of local and national non-governmental agencies that render needed services to offenders and their families; and to promote cross-cultural correctional research and facilitate contact among correctional workers throughout the world.

Publication and reports

IPAA issues a regular newsletter three times per year, an informative periodical directory of offenders care agencies around the world, and special reports and

pamphlets that deal with international correction. Since 1990, the newsletter has covered numerous news items on prisoners aid agencies and correctional conferences in different parts of the world, and several articles and research reports relevant to offenders rehabilitation and crime prevention, including resolutions and other activities of United Nations bodies.

Examples of topics covered by IPAA newsletters in recent years include: Alliance of NGOs for Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice; universal tuberculosis testing for prison inmates; efforts to reduce jail population; crime and offender rehabilitation in India; IPAA in its forty-fifth year; United Nations Secretary-General launches anniversary year; report on Danish welfare society; building a new juvenile justice system; Ninth United Nations Crime Congress condemns terrorism; cost of incarceration compared to other alternatives; Amnesty International: independence and impartiality; prisoners' right to medical care; New York school-based community centres; fundamental principles of restorative justice; management of prison riots; placement/education of discharged prisoners in China; volunteer parole officers in Japan; new trends in integrating discharged prisoners; UNICEF supports project combating sexual abuse; and prison project in Nicaragua.

Conferences and seminars

In addition to its business meetings, IPAA holds a general membership meeting, combined with an international conference twice every five years, one of which corresponds in time and place with the United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Treatment of Offenders, held in a different country every five years. During 1994-1997, IPAA has conducted several international conferences, including a meeting on new trends in offender rehabilitation held at Cairo from 25-27 April 1995 in collaboration with the Egyptian Union for Prisoner Care. The Cairo conference dealt with prison labour; assistance to prisoners' families; and work/study release programmes. It was followed by the Ninth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention also held at Cairo from 29 April to 8 May 1995. IPAA co-sponsored there a seminar on community participation in corrections, and its representatives participated in several ancillary meetings of non-governmental organizations. During the 1994-1997 period, IPAA participated through its representatives in several international and regional events connected with offender rehabilitation, including a Pacific Rim regional conference on reintegration of discharged prisoners, held jointly by the China Prison Society and the Hong Kong Society for Rehabilitation of

Offenders in Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China during January 1997.

Representations at United Nations and NGOs Alliance

IPAA affiliation with the United Nations enhanced the worldwide exchange of information with other groups interested in improving and humanizing policies dealing with crime prevention and treatment of offenders. Delegates of IPAA meet and work regularly with delegates of similar groups through the Alliance of Non-governmental Organizations for Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in New York. During the past four years, the IPAA representative at the United Nations has served as Executive Secretary of the Alliance. IPAA has also maintained a regular representative at the Vienna International Centre. The continued cooperation and support of the Economic and Social Council is earnestly solicited to facilitate the forward progress of our important worldwide involvement.

Request and inquiries

IPAA has received during the last four years numerous inquiries and requests for assistance or advice from agencies and individuals all over the world, especially the United States. The secretariat has made a special effort to respond to these letters, and has in many cases had to refer requests to other specialized agencies. Several of those requests were announced in IPAA newsletters, and by that means many prisoners, ex-offenders and other individuals have been assisted by concerned groups or agencies.

10. International Rural Housing Association

(Special status granted 1972)

Introduction

The International Rural Housing Association is a non-profit, non-governmental association in the field of rural housing and environmental sanitation.

Sources of funding

It is funded by the Ministry of Health and Social Assistance of Venezuela.

Participation

The Association has participated in:

(a) Preparatory meetings for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) at Geneva in April 1994;

(b) An ECO-HABITAT international foundation forum in New York on 27 and 28 March 1995. The President accredited Pola Ortiz and Arturo Luis Berti, both of whom participated;

(c) The World Food Summit, Rome, 13-17 November 1996. The President was accredited;

(d) The nineteenth special session of the General Assembly in New York in June 1997. Eric Carlson represented the Association;

(e) Habitat II at Istanbul in June 1996. Eric Carlson represented the Association.

Cooperation with United Nations programmes

The Association transmits technical information concerning rural housing and environmental sanitation by disseminating bulletins, pamphlets and pertinent documentation received from the United Nations.

Other relevant activities

The Association participated with the Inter-American Development Bank in technical meetings in the field of rural housing and community development involving Venezuela, Colombia, Mexico and Central American countries.

The President collaborated in and attended workshops on financing low-income housing and social technical assistance planning at Mérida, Venezuela, in 1996.

The President attended a second workshop on design and technology of housing and rural settlements at Mérida in 1997.

The President participated in the counselling, preparation and implementation of an agreement between the Ministry of Health, the Faculty of Architecture of the University of the Andes at Mérida and the International Rural Housing Association, to investigate new types of rural dwellings for hot and humid climates in 1998.

An agreement between the foundation ECO-HABITAT, the Ministry of Health and the oil company Petroleos de Venezuela and the Rural Housing Association was arranged to implement programmes of rural housing in the oil zones in eastern and western Venezuela.

11. International Union of Students

(Special status granted 1983)

Founded in 1946, the International Union of Students (IUS) strives for the following aims:

(a) The attainment of education for all, independent of gender, economic status, social condition, political opinion, religion, colour or race;

(b) The reform and democratization of education, the achievement of academic freedom and university autonomy;

(c) The contribution towards finding solutions to acute economic problems hindering development;

(d) The achievement of equal opportunities for women to participate fully in their respective societies;

(e) The promotion of friendship, mutual understanding and cooperation among students throughout the world.

IUS is currently made up of 124 member unions in 99 countries.

IUS has participated in United Nations activities as follows:

(a) The President attended the fourth UNESCO/NGO collective consultation in Paris in September 1994;

(b) The Research Officer attended the International Conference on Population and Development Conference at Cairo in 1994;

(c) The Research Officer attended the World Summit for Social Development at Copenhagen in 1995;

(d) The Secretary General attended the United Nations World Youth Forum at Vienna in August 1996;

(e) The Secretary General attended the fifth UNESCO/NGO collective consultation in Paris in February 1996;

(f) The Secretary General and the Regional Secretary for Europe attended the UNESCO regional meeting for Europe at Palermo in October 1997, which was preparatory to the World Conference on Higher Education;

(g) The Regional Secretary for Europe attended a UNESCO conference on adult education at Hamburg in July 1997.

Cooperation with UNESCO especially has gained impetus within the period under question, mainly through attendance at UNESCO meetings and contribution to its debates.

In the implementation of United Nations resolution, IUS has conducted many events at regional, subregional and national levels, such as:

(a) A student round table for the European region at Prague in February 1994 on the theme "Industrialisation, the environment and sustainable development";

(b) A seminar in Guatemala in July 1994 for Latin America and the Caribbean region on the theme "The role of students in the advancement of human rights";

(c) A conference in Bangladesh in March 1995 for the Asia and Pacific region on the theme "Fundamentalism and human rights";

(d) A workshop in Namibia in October 1995 for the southern African subregion on the theme "Globalization and sustainable development: implications for Africa";

(e) A seminar in Germany in May 1996 held at the national level, in cooperation with the national IUS constituency on the theme "Minorities in Europe: how far does European integration cater for them?";

(f) A seminar in Ghana in September 1997 in cooperation with the All Africa Students Union (AASU) for the West African subregion on the theme "A sustainable environment: the key to sustainable development".

12. Penal Reform International

(Special status granted 1993)

Introduction

Penal Reform International (PRI) is a non-governmental organization established in 1989, registered in the Netherlands. PRI seeks to achieve penal reform, while recognizing diverse cultural contexts, by promoting:

(a) The development and implementation of international human rights instruments with regard to law enforcement, prison conditions and standards;

(b) The elimination of unfair and unethical discrimination in all penal measures;

(c) The abolition of the death penalty;

(d) The reduction in the use of imprisonment throughout the world;

(e) The use of constructive non-custodial sanctions which encourage social reintegration while taking account of the interests of victims.

PRI's geographical spread of membership increased slightly from 78 to 82 countries between 1994 and 1997 – the number of members increased in many of those countries. PRI's board has members from 16 countries.

PRI's expenditure increased from approximately US\$ 750,000 in 1994 to approximately US\$ 1 million in 1997. A substantial proportion of the funds came from the European Union, for a range of different projects. PRI continued to receive support from the Governments of the United Kingdom, Denmark, Sweden and Finland. New sources of funding included the Government of Norway, the Soros Foundation and the Public Welfare Foundation (United States).

Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders

PRI was represented at the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders at Cairo in April/May 1995. The manual "Making standards work" produced by PRI was made available to all delegates. It was commended in a resolution on the practical implementation of the standard minimum rules for the treatment of prisoners proposed by the Netherlands and other Governments. The resolution was discussed further at the fourth session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in July 1995, when PRI was also represented, and a recommendation was made inviting the Secretary-General, drawing upon extrabudgetary resources, to distribute the manual among Member States for their use and consideration, and to seek their advice with a view to preparing a subsequent version of the manual for further consideration by the Commission.

Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

PRI was represented at the fifth session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in April 1996 at Vienna.

At the sixth session of the Commission, in April/May 1997 at Vienna, the PRI Chairperson made an oral statement at the plenary session of the meeting on PRI work in the field of penal reform.

The PRI manual "Making standards work" was described in the Secretary-General's report on the use of United Nations instruments in the administration of justice.

Eight Governments had commented on the manual, most being very supportive.

In September 1996, PRI organized a pan-African conference on prison conditions in Africa, under the aegis of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights. The conference adopted the Kampala Declaration on Prison Conditions in Africa. The Kampala Declaration was noted in and annexed to Commission resolution 1997/36, adopted during the sixth session.

International Centre for Crime Prevention

PRI has worked closely with ICCP (formerly the Division on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice). In June 1997, the PRI Chairperson and the officer-in-charge of ICCP signed formal letters of cooperation, covering the areas of: technical assistance to Governments; training of law enforcement personnel; and data gathering on the use and application of United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice.

PRI carried out a needs assessment on the penal and prison system in Sierra Leone with ICCP in December 1996. Also in 1996, PRI prepared a needs assessment on the prison system in Guinea for ICCP.

In November 1997, PRI organized an international conference on community service under the aegis of the United Nations and the African Commission on Human and People's Rights.

PRI undertook a survey of Caribbean prisons under contract with ICCP, beginning in December 1997.

International Scientific and Professional Advisory Council of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme

PRI was represented at the fifth plenary session of ISPAC at Courmayeur, Italy, in October 1995. The PRI honorary president presented the PRI manual "Making standards work" at the conference preceding the plenary session. PRI was also represented at the sixth plenary session of ISPAC at Courmayeur in October 1996, and again at its seventh plenary session in October 1997.

Centre for Human Rights/Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

PRI carried out a contract in 1997 with the United Nations Centre for Human Rights to produce training materials on human rights for prison officials.

PRI has supplied numerous experts at the request of the Centre, for training and other missions.

PRI held discussions on 31 July 1996 with the Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights and with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights about PRI's work and possible areas for cooperation. PRI contributed to the organization of a UNHCR training seminar on human rights for prison commissioners in Guinea in 1997.

Commission on Human Rights

PRI was represented at the fifty-second session of the Commission on Human Rights at Geneva in March/April 1996, and at its fifty-third session at Geneva in March/April 1997.

Human Rights Committee

PRI has established a project to present legal appeals on behalf of prisoners sentenced to death in the Caribbean. Through this project, appeals in over 30 cases have been presented to the Committee. Many of those applications have been declared admissible by the Committee, and in five cases the Committee determined that the rights of the appellants under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights had been violated and that compensation was due. Most of the cases are still awaiting determination by the Committee.

United Nations Children's Fund

UNICEF contributed financially to PRI work with young people in the Caribbean in 1997. UNICEF participated in a PRI mission requested by the Government of Saint Lucia to report on prison conditions in Saint Lucia in September 1997. PRI was chosen by UNICEF headquarters to represent the Caribbean at a UNICEF conference at Florence in 1997, and spoke on children in conflict with the law. PRI also provided a resource person for a UNICEF seminar in Belize in October 1997.

13. Project Concern International

(Special status granted 1993)

Introduction

Project Concern International's (PCI) mission is to improve the health and well-being of underserved people worldwide by creating partnerships which support and develop local health service capabilities, thus ensuring long-

lasting change. PCI trains local volunteers, as well as ministries of health and non-governmental organizations, in disease prevention, and provides institutional strengthening to achieve long-term sustainability.

Currently, PCI works in Mexico, Bolivia, Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua, India, Indonesia, Romania, Zambia and the United States. PCI's main activities focus on training local volunteers and health workers in disease prevention. PCI teaches communities about immunizations, pre- and postnatal care, early detection of acute respiratory infections and diarrhoea leading to dehydration, healthy nutrition, clean water and sanitation, family planning and reproductive health, as well as STD/HIV/AIDS prevention. In addition to community-based health prevention activities, PCI also trains ministry of health staff. To ensure that local people can sustain these health programmes, PCI provides institutional strengthening to locally managed non-governmental organizations.

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or conferences and other United Nations meetings

El Salvador

PCI staff will be participating in UNICEF's regional conference in Nicaragua in 1998.

Indonesia

In 1995, PCI staff attended a lecture on HIV/AIDS in Indonesia chaired by a WHO consultant. The staff also attends the monthly UNFPA donor forum.

Cooperation with United Nations programmes and bodies and specialized agencies

Bolivia

In 1997, PCI staff and UNICEF jointly constructed three water systems at Cochabamba. PCI and UNICEF divided all material costs and the local municipality covered labour costs. In 1998, PCI and FAO entered a joint venture "Project post-harvest", which focuses on the construction of silos. Material costs will be divided between PCI and the farmers, while FAO will cover costs of technical assistance and educational training.

El Salvador

PCI staff has been using UNICEF methodology for sanitary education, including the correct use of water and latrines, as well as proper hygiene, since 1994. PCI is also a member of the regional network water board that acts as

liaison for all agencies working in the water sector, and that aims to provide uniformity of methodologies and evaluation procedures.

Zambia

WFP has been involved in PCI HIV/AIDS district task forces since the inception of this innovative programme in 1997. The task forces are comprised of representatives of different groups, including NGOs, church groups, the military as well as private and public entities, who work together to develop, implement, mobilize funds and evaluate HIV/AIDS activities, such as community care support, condom access and health education.

Other relevant activities

Zambia

In preparation for PCI's May 1998 project "Lessons learned from the field: responses to HIV/AIDS and orphans and vulnerable children", a UNAIDS and WHO representative provided technical assistance. Both were also part of a steering committee that organized the conference. In addition, UNICEF provided technical assistance on child-related issues.

Romania

During the last four years, PCI has been consulting with UNICEF and UNFPA officials regarding its neonatology and family planning programme.

Indonesia

Over the last couple of years, consultations between UNICEF and PCI have taken place regarding PCI health activities in Irian Jaya.

Bolivia

In 1994, PCI received UNICEF funding for its health programme at Oruro. The support was targeted at an educational workshop on nutrition and the production of pamphlets, as well as the implementation of educational programmes on diarrhoea and respiratory infections. Currently, PCI has a proposal pending with UNFPA, and is participating in a project that is partially funded by UNFPA.

Indonesia

In 1996, WHO funded a PCI study "Iron tablet distribution and anti-helminthic treatment for pregnant women by traditional birth attendants at Maluku". The study focused on approaches and hypotheses in effective minimum frequency of iron supplementation in pregnant women.